IN THE CLAIMS:

The text of all pending claims, (including withdrawn claims) is set forth below. Cancelled and not entered claims are indicated with claim number and status only. The claims as listed below show added text with underlining and deleted text with ~~strikethrough~~. The status of each claim is indicated with one of (original), (currently amended), (cancelled), (withdrawn), (new), (previously presented), or (not entered).

1. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A data transfer method ~~effected in~~ for a library apparatus having a ~~logically plurally divided~~ housing unit that is logically divided into a plurality of housing portions, a turnout housing unit ~~for~~ housing temporarily a storage medium, and a robot ~~for conveying~~ to convey the storage medium from the housing unit to the turnout housing unit or from the turnout housing unit to the housing unit, with a plurality of host computers being connected to the library apparatus, the plurality of host computers each ~~making~~ having access to ~~the logically plurally divided~~ at least one portion of the housing unit, the data transfer method enabling the storage medium, housed in a first housing portion of the ~~logically plurally divided~~ housing unit, to be used by ~~the~~ a host computer ~~making~~ having access to a second housing portion of the housing unit, different from the first housing portion, the data transfer method comprising ~~the steps of~~:

controlling the robot to convey the storage medium from the first housing portion to the turnout housing unit based on a first medium conveyance instruction from a first host computer ~~making~~ having access to the first housing portion when operation mode is transfer mode;

~~after completion of the conveyance to the turnout housing unit,~~ notifying a second host computer ~~making~~ having access to the second housing portion, different from the first housing portion, that ~~the storage~~ a new storage medium has been ~~conveyed to~~ inserted into the turnout housing unit when conveying the storage medium to the turnout housing unit is completed; and

controlling the robot to convey the storage medium ~~that has been conveyed to~~ from the turnout housing unit, to the second housing portion, based on a second medium conveyance instruction from the second host computer.

2. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The data transfer method according to claim 1, wherein:

the turnout housing unit is a volume access station acting as an inlet for the storage medium inserted into the housing unit and acting as an outlet for the storage medium ejected from the housing unit.

3. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The data transfer method according to claim 1, wherein the turnout housing unit is a common housing portion included in a common ~~in~~ housing portion of the first housing portion and the second housing portion.

4. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The data transfer method according to claim 1, wherein:

the housing unit is physically divided so as to correspond to the logical ~~dividing~~ division, and ~~wherein~~

the turnout housing unit is a medium delivering mechanism ~~for mediating the delivering~~ to mediate delivery of the storage medium between the first housing portion and the second housing portion which are divided physically.

5. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A library apparatus comprising:

a ~~logically plurally divided~~ housing unit;

a turnout housing unit ~~for~~ housing temporarily a storage medium;

a robot ~~for~~ conveying the storage medium from the housing unit to the turnout housing unit or from the turnout housing unit to the housing unit;

a robot controlling unit ~~for, based on a medium conveyance instruction from a first host computer making access to a first housing portion of the logically plurally divided housing unit,~~ controlling the robot to convey the storage medium from ~~the~~ a first housing portion to the turnout housing unit, based on a first medium conveyance instruction from a first host computer having access to the first housing portion of the housing unit, and thereafter ~~based on a medium conveyance instruction from a second host computer making access to a second housing portion different from the first housing portion of the logically plurally divided housing unit~~, controlling the robot to convey the storage medium ~~that has been conveyed to~~ from the turnout housing unit to ~~the~~ a second housing portion, different from the first housing portion of the housing unit, based on a second medium conveyance instruction from a second host computer having access to the second housing portion; and

a completion notifying unit ~~for~~ notifying the second host computer that ~~the~~ a new storage medium has been inserted ~~conveyed to~~ into the turnout housing unit~~, after completion of the conveyance of~~ when conveying the storage medium from the first housing portion to the turnout housing unit has been completed.

6. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The library apparatus according to claim 5, wherein the robot controlling unit and the completion notifying unit are included in a controlling unit ~~for~~ controlling the ~~whole~~ library apparatus.

7. (ORIGINAL) The library apparatus according to claim 5, wherein the turnout housing unit is a volume access station acting as an inlet for the storage medium inserted into the housing unit and acting as an outlet for the storage medium ejected from the housing unit.

8. (ORIGINAL) The library apparatus according to claim 5, wherein the turnout housing unit is a common housing unit included in common in the first housing portion and the second housing portion.

9. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The library apparatus according to claim 5, wherein:

the housing unit is physically divided so as to correspond to the logical ~~dividing~~ division, and ~~wherein~~

the turnout housing unit is a medium delivering mechanism ~~for~~ mediating ~~the delivering of~~ delivery of the storage medium between the first housing portion and the second housing portion which are divided physically.